



NEWSLETTER April 2026

*Local Ideas. Shared Action. Real Change.
...Join the Collective.*

Community Food Innovation Action Group



In late February, The Community Plate was proud to bring together growers, community organisations, food businesses and local leaders for our **Community Food Innovation Gathering**. The day created space to share what's already working, openly explore shared challenges across our local food system, and spark practical ideas for collaboration – from people-centred food access to food hubs, markets, logistics and infrastructure.

As a result of the gathering, the Community Food Innovation Action Group have come together to scope four key project areas:

- Local Food Hubs
- Pop-up Community Market
- Food Systems Mapping
- Shared Logistics and Distribution Network

If you've been waiting to get involved, now is the time. We'd love your contribution as we shift our focus from ideas into action. The Action Group meets monthly, and new participants are very welcome.

WHEN: Wednesday 29th April 1am-2pm

WHERE: Frankston Social Enterprise & Innovation Hub (or Online)

INFO/RSVP: Zara zara@fseh.org.au

Urban Agriculture in Community

Join us to amplify urban agriculture across the community. Come together to:

- create a local **Grow Free Cart** movement
- design a **Fruit Rescue Program**
- explore **Spaces for Food Growing**

WHEN: Wednesday 22nd April 9.30-11.00am

WHERE: In-person or Online

INFO/RSVP: Louise lsingleton@phcn.vic.gov.au



image: GrowFree.au



Urban Agriculture in Schools

Join us to amplify urban agriculture across schools.
Come together to:

- create a local **Grow Free Cart** movement
- design a **Mid-Week Fruit & Veg Box**
- follow the **School Food Forest Pilot**

WHEN: To be confirmed

WHERE: In-person or Online

INFO/RSVP: Louise lsingleton@phcn.vic.gov.au

Australian Food Security Pulse Check

How is the current crisis impacting you?

Take the pulse-check survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5LHWM76>

Sustain: the Australian Food Network have created a short pulse-check survey to understand community views and experiences, and give you the opportunity to say what action you want to see the Federal government to take.

Please share with your communities and networks.

Survey closes Thursday 30th April.



Sustain: The Australian Food Network

Australian Food Security Pulse-Check

SUSTAIN
the Australian food network

Frankston Food Relief Collective Impact Project



**FOOD
DONATIONS**

After exploring a community portal to bring about coordination of food relief work in the Frankston area, the group is now looking at ways to better support volunteers, particularly in the current economic situation.

If you are not on the invite list but are working in the area of food relief in Frankston, please join us.

Email: zara@fseh.org.au

Victorian Food Policy Forum

Victorian Food Policy Forum

NAARM/MELBOURNE

22 May 2026, 9:00 - 17:00 AEST

A gathering for food system change-makers to shape the Feeding Australia national food security strategy

Registrations are open for the Victorian Food Policy Forum!

Nikki and Louise from our very own local food collective (The Community Plate) will be presenting to help shape conversations on Australia's food future.

Join us and food system changemakers, councils and community leaders to turn shared challenges into collective action.

INFO:

<https://events.humanitix.com/victorian-food-policy-forum>



Cooking Hubs

Looking for a kitchen space?

Are you a community group or social enterprise looking for a kitchen space?

Our [kitchen registry](#) is now available!



Contact us via

thecommunityplate@gmail.com

to know more about the kitchen registry

Bringing together kitchen providers and users to share local spaces!



Local Legends on National TV!



image: Costa Georgiadis Official

The amazing local community garden at Coolart Wetlands was recently featured on ABC's Gardening Australia with Costa, showcasing the power of volunteers growing food with care and creativity.

In community spirit — much of the harvest is donated to Western Port Community Support, helping nourish hundreds of locals each week.

Watch 8 minutes of local inspo here: [The Art of Community - Gardening Australia](#)

The Gathering Garden

Got extra fruit or veggies at home?

Share the love by donating your homegrown produce to Western Port Community Support's 'The Gathering Garden' and help nourish someone in need.

Donations collected Mon–Fri, 10am–3pm at Western Port Community Centre, Reception B, 185 High St, Hastings — every apple, carrot and bunch of greens makes a difference!



image: Western Port Community Support

Eco-Bee Group at Downs Community Farm

Eco-Bees - Every Second Saturday of the Month

Down's Community Farms Eco-Bee group works in the native habitat garden around the Green House.

Keeping the area thriving, explore new ideas to support and inspire local wildlife to create a home.

Keen to help? Join this enthusiastic little crew! Come on Down!! 10am-12pm. All welcome!



image: Down's Community Farm

Good for the Hood at Home



Free sustainability tips, tools and events – all in one place.

Frankston City residents can now access the Good for the Hood Program – an online hub packed with practical ideas and resources to help you live more sustainably.

Explore modules covering composting, reducing waste, food, gardening, and much more! Frankston City Council is funding access for residents, making the program completely FREE.

SIGN UP: <https://www.goodforthehood.com.au/frankston>

Preserving Olives Workshop

Bring your own olives!!

The Mornington Peninsula Shire is hosting this friendly, hands-on workshop with Brendan from Big Little Farm and learn how to preserve them using the brining method.

Sat 6 June 1.00 - 3.30pm Eco Living Display Centre

Cost: \$15 (Concession), \$25 (General Admission)

Register here: <https://olives2026.eventbrite.com.au>



Supporting Communities through Food Crisis



A special edition of Sustain: The Australian Food Networks Local Government Food Systems Network, brings together council representatives to explore how rising fuel costs are affecting food affordability, access, and production.

When: Thursday 30th April, 12:30pm – 14:00pm ONLINE

REGISTER: <https://events.humanitix.com/a-special-local-government-forum-supporting-communities-through-the-food-crisis>

Free for Local Government Food Systems Network members / \$50 for non-members

Grants



Frankston City Council Social Inclusion Action Group - Community Connection and Accessibility Grant Rounds

Close 26th April 2026

<https://www.frankston.vic.gov.au/Community-and-Health/Community-development-and-engagement/Social-Inclusion-Action-Group-SIAG-Frankston>

Mornington Peninsula Funding Finder

Mornington Peninsula Shire is excited to provide the 'Funding Finder' to all local businesses, community groups, not-for-profits and individuals. This site provides a comprehensive list of grant and funding opportunities available to you.

<https://grantguru.com/au/morningtonpeninsulashire>

Growing Guides

We have an abundance of guidance to make the most of our gardens and growing seasons. Explore some guides here:

Transition Farm - Sowing in April

<https://transitionfarm.com/blogs/growing-resources/sowing-in-april>

Diggers Autumn Gardening Guide

<https://www.diggers.com.au/blogs/learn/garden-guide-april-cool-region>

Food From Home April Growing Guide

<https://foodfromhome.org/monthly-growing-guides/>



Connect and Share

Share your local food system news and events via our **Events Page:** www.communityplate.org.au/events

Newsletter additions to: thecommunityplate@gmail.com

Follow us: [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#)

Subscribe: <https://communityplate.org.au/join-us/>

Unsubscribe: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TCP> **Unsubscribe**

